What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #162:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello from Oak Park, IL! I flew back a week ago today and I'm still getting over my jet lag. On a positive note, it makes the early morning European auctions a bit easier. Speaking of which, there are a number of auctions coming this week or next. Some of you got some rather heavy boxes from me this week. The Leu and Roma catalogs are back breakers. Luckily they are filled with some amazing coins. I expect the market to continue to be strong as it has for the last months. In lieu of coin shows there are some incredible opportunities to get pedigreed and fantastic pieces.

Hess Divo 339 (22 October)

Hess Divo has their 339th auction with 488 lots. The catalog starts out with a fantastic group of 53 Greek coins, many with pedigrees. Like any good Swiss auction there is a considerable selection of coins from the home country. One of the more impressive is lot 155, a 10 Dukat from 1650. This coin comes from a 1920's collection and features a beautiful view of Basel on the obverse and a hen with her chicks on the reverse. It also will likely go for a small fortune. Not for most of us to purchase but definitely one to check out! For those that can't afford lot 155, lot 156 is the silver version and with a more reasonable price tag. There are German and world coins on offer as well. The final lot is a special one, a golden cigar box that was previously owned by the Shah of Persia (1941-1979). This box is a remarkable piece of elegance and history. I plan to participate in this auction so please get in touch soon if interested in representation.

Schulman 365 (22 October)

Unfortunately the Schulman and and Hess Divo auctions land on the same day so some may have to decide. Schulman is largely world coinage but at the beginning of the sale are some fantastic opportunities in the way of Roman aurei with great pedigrees. Some of the coins are encapsulated by NGC so if that is an issue for you it is good to be aware.

A few pedigrees are from the "Schulman Vault" collection. Schulman has been around for many years so not surprisingly like Baldwins you will see some goodies come out of their vault after many hidden years.

Morton & Eden 108 (22 October)

Along with Hess Divo and Schulman, M&E have their 108th auction with 250 lots. There are some nice Greek and Roman possibilities with good pedigrees available in this sale. The hardest part will just be where one decides to bid! Please get in touch if you need my help.

Leu 6 and 7 (23-25 October)

Leu has three huge catalogs for their auction 6 and 7. Some might remember that I traveled to Zurich in June to view and photograph auction 6. I'm glad that I was able to do that as the photos are coming in handy these days. Auction 6 is entitled "The Kleinkunst" collection (small art for those non German speakers). It is composed of 300 pedigreed Greek coins. The collector had a taste for quality and scarcity. It is both beautiful like lot 78 which is a double gold dekadrachm of Dionysios I. A coin with a lengthy pedigree including being from the collection of Charles Gillet ("Kunstfreund") and absolutely no die rust which normally plagues these types. On the other side it has infrequently seen types like lot 224, a coin from the Dynasts of Lycia with a ketos (sea monster) on the obverse and reverse. It also has a pedigree back to Hess-Leu in 1971. Lots 188 and 189 from Klazomenai are both porous but exceedingly rare. Again, they both have extensive pedigrees.

Auction 7 is in two parts because of its sheer size of 1,100 coins. The first part consists of coinage through Roman provincial. The following day continues with Republican coinage and includes the second part of the "Aurum Barbarorum" collection, a group of early Germanic coins which are holed presumably for adorning clothing or with ancient bezels to wear around one's neck. There is also a large group of ancient weights to be sold.

The three day event should be exciting and I'm certain that there is something for everyone. Please get in touch if you need my help.

Roma XX (29 and 30 October)

I've now had the opportunity to view almost the entire Roma XX sale and needless to say I was very impressed. There are some outstanding rarities and generally all around great coins on offer. If the auction market continues to be bullish then I would expect some record prices in this auction, particularly on the gold Eid Mar. I've noticed that Roma has an amazing selection of Syracuse tetradrachms on offer in this sale. As with NAC, there are a lot of incredible varieties that are now coming to market. Also noticeable are all the beautiful (and pedigreed!) Roman aurei available. All the auctions are offering numerous opportunities to purchase high end roman coins. Roma has, as usual, a large selection of early electrum on offer. There are so many coins that deserve mention but one that I am personally attracted to is lot 86, the Syracuse electrum stater with an obverse and reverse that are beyond beautiful. These coins always (and I mean 99.9% of the time) come with a large flan crack. This one has it too but not anything on the scale of what most have. It also has a nice 1970's pedigree. There are so many other

beauties in this sale that I'll let you all decide for yourselves what is your favorite! I will be bidding live in this auction so please get in touch soon if you need representation.

Coin of the Week

BRITISH TOKEN. Middlesex. Old Cavendish Street, Richard Summers, Halfpenny, 1797
AE Halfpenny, 15.91g (30mm, 6h). Head of a wild man full facing / Large RS cypher surrounded by three lines of legends, edge plain.

References: DH906

Grade: Insignificant spot on face of wild man, otherwise, in pristine condition with no wear. Mint State

Price: $2,150

wc1103

Buy Coin

By the end of the 1700's the copper coinage for commerce in England was in a bad state. Coins for everyday purchases were in poor condition and counterfeits ran amok. This led to an ingenious innovation by the public. Tokens of similar size and quality were produced by merchants and private citizens and distributed as good currency for commerce. Over time there were so many tokens produced that finding one minted by the government was unlikely. The demand far exceeded the supply as people also began to collect them. Finally in 1797 the government intervened and produced the copper two penny and one penny pieces.

Many people know these tokens as "Condor" tokens. This was because a man named James Condor of Ipswich published an arrangement of the tokens in 1798, just one year after the introduction of the new government issues. There are thousands of tokens out there and the fun in collecting all of them would be a lifelong project.

This token is one of the more exciting with the head of a "wild man" on the obverse. It advertises a museum dealer of curiosities.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/world/british-token-middlesex-old-cavendish-street-richard-summers-halfpenny-1797?rq=wc1103

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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